

create a station resembling MTV, but it was not commercially feasible.

Cocola began branching out into the low power channels he was accumulating. At a cable television convention, Cocola met Bud Paxson, the founder of the Home Shopping channel. In 1987, Cocola entered the shopping channel market. In 1988, the Spanish News Network out of New York City contacted KMSG, and Cocola converted the channel to Telemundo 59.

As the 80's went by, Cocola continued to expand his ownership of the low power channels not offered on cable TV. He added more shopping channels, a pay for view music TV channel, and a classic movie channel. Today his broadcast empire includes 10 stations owned locally, including a full power station, Channel 43, and an additional five channels in other locations throughout the United States. One station is a full power channel in Omaha, Nebraska and another is a low power station that delivers a new concept in Internet access. This new idea will use broadcast to deliver access to the Internet at a faster speed than the current linkups allow.

Cocola has provided a service to many community members without cable by bringing them news, public affairs and entertainment for free.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gary Cocola for his service to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Gary many more years of continued success and happiness.

130TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. JOY
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to make the House aware of the 130th anniversary of Mt. Joy Missionary Baptist Church in Edwardsville. The church serves as a pillar of the community. The church began in 1869 in the home of a church member who was also an ex-slave. In 1871 the church moved to a log cabin nearby. The church has always been a center for the community to come together to interact. There will also be the very first showing of the new history museum created by the church.

When a long time church member was questioned about the church she replied, "I used to like the old ice cream socials years ago. It was a way for folks to get together, and there was always a place for the kids to play." It is exciting to see a community get together to celebrate the anniversary of a historic institution in its community. Such events create a sense of pride and history throughout the community.

A TRIBUTE TO CASEY LEE
ADKISSON FOR HIS PROMOTION
TO THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Casey

Lee Adkisson, Boy Scout, from San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of his advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

In addition, the rank of Eagle Scout is only bestowed once a Boy Scout satisfies duties including, the completion of 21 merit badges, performing a service project of significant value to the community, and additional requirements listed in the Scout Handbook.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Eagle Scout Casey Lee Adkisson will guide and inspire his peers, toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Casey on this respected accomplishment.

DR. BRUCE SOMMER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bruce Sommer has impeccable academic and surgical credentials with honors, ranging from Phi Beta Kappa to the American College of Surgeons; Alpha Omega Alpha; Phi Sigma for Biology; Chi Epsilon Mu for Chemistry; and Phi Sigma for Philosophy.

Dr. Sommer, a native New Yorker, was born on October 5, 1948, and received his M.D. degree and internship at the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1974. He is presently the Attending Surgeon Chief in the Division of Transplantation at the University Hospital of Brooklyn with prior hospital appointments that include Kings County, Ohio State University's liver transplantation unit, St. Paul Ramsey Medical Center's Burn Center, and the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Hospital.

His professional memberships number over twenty, American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Medical Association, American College of Surgeon Fellows, New York Surgical Society, National Kidney Foundation, not to mention the founding member of the cell transplant society in 1991.

Given this illustrious professional background, it is difficult to describe a more exemplary model of a research fellow. Dr. Sommer is renowned for his funded research in acute hepatic failure, minority tissue transplant, and cellular transplantation for enzymatic and metabolic deficiencies. Moreover, Bruce was the principal investigator at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Research Institute engaging in the phase III Study of Acute Renal Graft Rejection with Deoxyspergulin.

This exceptional man of healing lives in Harrison, New York with his family. The dedication and sensibility he brings to the medical profession is unparalleled here in Brooklyn. I would like my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in commending Dr. Sommer for his achievements.

A TRIBUTE TO HIS HOLINESS
CATHOLICOS KAREKIN I

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to His Holiness Catholicos Karekin I. On June 29, the Armenian community mourned the loss of this Supreme Patriarch and leader of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Born Nishan Sarkissian in Kessab, Syria, Karekin I was ordained priest in 1949.

Karekin I dedicated his life to preaching the message of the Armenian Church in a dynamic and creative manner by devoting himself to the instruction of a new generation of clergy which he dubbed "Ambassadors of Christian Faith".

During the 1970's, Karekin I was the head of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church in New York. In this capacity, he motivated the spiritual and cultural life of Armenians and championed a modern vision within theological writings.

In his most recent role as co-President of the Pan Armenian Committee, His Holiness was preparing for the celebration of 1,700 years of Christianity in Armenia. Without his contribution, this celebration would not have been possible. Sadly, Karekin I will not bear witness to the project's successful completion, expected in 2001.

Karekin I made an impact on Armenians throughout the world, and particularly in eastern Massachusetts. When Karekin I was buried in his homeland of Etchmaidzin, Armenia, local Armenians residing in Watertown and Cambridge, MS, grieved with others around the world at his passing. Karekin I was a compassionate human being who affected the lives of Armenian Apostolic parishioners, particularly those whom he had visited at St. Stephen's in Watertown, and Holy Trinity in Cambridge, MS.

Karekin I's spiritual teachings and services made a vital contribution to the cohesiveness that today exists among a people scattered throughout the globe. The Armenian international community has suffered a great and personal loss in the death of Karekin I, a man of eternal accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING HIGH
SCHOOL SECRETARY KAREN
ENSOR

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 16, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Mrs. Karen Ensor, the principal's secretary for the past 26 years at Lexington High School in Lexington, Missouri, retired on June 30, 1999.

Mrs. Ensor began her career 33 years ago when she accepted a position as a teacher's aide at Leslie Bell Elementary School. She remained at Leslie Bell for seven years and then moved to the high school as the principal's secretary. In that post, Karen served the students and staff Lexington High School for 26 years.